

MONMOUTH • Gaeaf • Winter 2019

Grapevine

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YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IN WALES

Design by Isabella Matthewson, age 9



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THE CHURCH
IN WALES

Grapevine Editorial

So, we are in the throes of the busy festive season of spiritual preparation, prayer and celebration – but hopefully you will find a quiet moment to read through this latest edition.

There's a lot crammed in as we wave goodbye to 2019 and say hello to 2020. Hopefully you will find the content inspiring and uplifting as we reflect on all the work being done across the diocese to grow the Kingdom of God! From briefings about leading your church in growth, to helping our churchwardens keep our churches open and accessible, to working with our schools and young people – it's all about making meaningful connections. And, of course, the exciting news is that Bishop Elect Cherry Vann will be joining us in the New Year to help us develop all this good work even further!

So, enjoy this very special time of year – but make sure you find time to put your feet up because 2020 is going to be busy!!

Nadolig llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd dda I chi I gyd!

(Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!)

Pob bendith (blessings)



Debra Goddard
Diocesan Communications Officer

Tel: 01633 216091
Mob: 07392 319065
Email: debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk



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Monmouth Grapevine is produced and distributed by the Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance

Editor: Debra Goddard,
Diocesan Communications Officer

Email: debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk

Post: Diocesan Office,
64 Caerau Road, Newport. NP20 4HJ

Deadline for next edition:
February 14 2020

Publication date:
March 12 2020

To update the **FREE** order details for your church, please contact the Diocesan Office

Email:
monmouthreception@churchinwales.org.uk

Tel:
01633 267490

Designed by: Mediadesign

All text and format complies with RNIB guidelines.

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All information correct at time of going to press.

Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance is a company registered in England and Wales.

Company no: 003489945

Charity no: 1067653



<http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk>



Monmouthdiocese



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New Bishop elected

We are delighted to announce that the Archdeacon of Rochdale has been elected as the next Bishop of Monmouth.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Bishop Elect Cherry to the diocese, and we all look forward to working and worshipping with her in the not too distant future.

Archbishop of Wales, John Davies, said: "I am delighted to be able to confirm that Archdeacon Cherry Vann has now formally written to me confirming her acceptance of the outcome of the Electoral College, so she is now, officially, Bishop Elect of Monmouth. Depending on works to be carried out at the Bishop's residence, Bishopstow, and the end of her role in the Diocese of Manchester, she hopes to move to Newport in December. The next formal step required is that the Sacred Synod of the Church in Wales, comprising the remaining Diocesan Bishops, must meet to be asked for their confirmation of election. Provided that the Synod confirms the election, a service of Consecration, a provincial event, will take place in Brecon Cathedral, and the Enthronement of the Bishop, a diocesan event, will subsequently take place in Newport Cathedral. Provisional plans for all of these, which are likely to happen after Christmas, are in hand, and further details will be announced in due course. Please pray for the Bishop-elect with regularity and love."

Originally from Leicestershire, Bishop Elect Vann has served as Archdeacon of Rochdale, in the Diocese of Manchester, for the past 11 years. She trained for ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge, and was ordained as a deacon in 1989. Among the first women to be ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1994, she has spent her entire ministry so far in the Diocese of Manchester, in Flixton, Bolton and Farnworth. She is also an honorary canon of Manchester Cathedral and a former chaplain to deaf people.

Ms Vann holds senior posts in the governance of the Church of England. She has been Prolocutor of the Lower House of the Convocation of York since 2013 and is an ex-officio member of the Archbishops' Council.

A talented pianist, Ms Vann is both an Associate of the Royal College of Music (ARCM) and a Graduate of the Royal Schools of Music. She conducts the Bolton Chamber Orchestra.

Bishop Elect Cherry has a busy couple of months ahead of her, but Grapevine will be catching-up with her and reporting back in the Spring edition.



Bishop Elect Cherry Vann



Bishop Elect Vann celebrates with members of the Electoral College from Diocese of Monmouth

Keeping churchwardens 'included and informed'

The role our churchwardens play in the day-to-day running of church life is huge!

As an integral part of who we are and what we do – we aim to keep them included and informed.

The annual Churchwardens Briefing was another great success with almost 50 people coming along to share experiences, ideas and knowledge with each other. The key topics for this event was church insurance and grants.

Key speaker at the event was church insurance consultant, Chris Brudenell from Ecclesiastical who spoke about Open Churches. Chris said: *"Keeping churches open outside of services of worship is a key element in the link they have with the community they serve. An open door enables people to find a quiet place to pray, it offers somewhere to sit and think, and it enables visitors to the area to enjoy any historical treasures a church may have."*

During the presentation Chris looked at ways that churches can safely keep their doors open during the day without compromising the security of the building and the safety of church volunteers. Over the years Ecclesiastical Insurance has found that an open building is often safer because there is an increased number of people in and around the church and by taking simple steps to improve security and housekeeping, many more visitors will be able to enjoy our beautiful churches.

Russell Jones, Churchwarden at St Peters, Nant y Deri, said: "The meeting was well-worth attending and it was good to see so many there.

"I found the topic of church insurance very informative. Chris Brudenell was very entertaining and he answered the interesting questions from my fellow wardens very well."

If you would like to arrange free training sessions, seminars, workshops or bespoke events to help your wardens, treasurers, staff or volunteers, on matters such as open churches, health and safety, metal theft, church insurance or personal safety (or any other relevant topic), please contact Chris Brudenell, Church Insurance Consultant at Ecclesiastical on **07741 726912**.

This service comes at no additional cost to the diocesan insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance and is available to all parish churches.

From Archbishop John

'Are you looking forward to...?' Is a question which, I should imagine, many of us will have been asked on countless occasions. At this time of the year many will, I suspect, be asked or will be asking of others, 'Are you looking forward to Christmas?' The replies will be many and varied and for a whole raft of different reasons.

Looking forward is, of course, not simply about looking forward in time, but is frequently about anticipating an event or experience, likely to be positive or pleasurable. For example, I have, for more years than I can remember, looked forward to the season of Advent, not because it's the lead-in to Christmas, but because of the richness and promise of its liturgy and its themes. Advent has wonderful biblical readings, some gloriously imaginative hymns, and is full of promise about God reaching out to a frail and faltering people, bringing light and hope in darkness and uncertainty. There is both positivity and pleasure in recognising the grace, love and truth which compel such outreach.

Looking forward is something which the Diocese is now doing in two particularly important ways:

Firstly there is the promise of a new Bishop to look forward to; the coming, in the New Year, of someone of immense experience, great wisdom and a profound concern for bringing hope and confidence to those among whom she is called to minister. I am sure that, from all I have discovered about the Bishop Elect, you will be very fortunate indeed to have, as your new Bishop, someone whom those who know her well and have worked with her over the years are

immensely sorry to lose. She will bring to the Diocese of Monmouth many gifts, great love and significant vision for the future; and she will, I am certain, give a strong lead and a clear sense of direction.

Secondly, there is a challenge to look forward to – the challenge of continuing to engage with @MissionMonmouth, and, from committed engagement with this vision, to see new hope and new opportunities beginning to emerge afresh in your parishes, ministry areas and communities. Across the Church in Wales there are tales of concern for the future and, sadly, in some places, a great deal of hope and confidence appear to have evaporated. I know that there are areas of the diocese where times are felt to be incredibly hard and relentlessly challenging. But the life of the Church, the call to live and represent the Gospel, have seldom been comfortable. Reflecting on this truth, and upon the courage and commitment of past generations of faithful Christians should encourage each one of us to be positive about the resources which we have – human resources, material resources, financial resources and the great resource of presence in most of the communities across the diocese. And even if some of these resources are less evident than in the past, we still have them, we must celebrate them, and we must employ them in the cause of the Gospel.

Under the leadership of the new Bishop and the Bishop's Senior Staff, I hope that your confidence will grow, and that you will look forward to sharing together in the work of welcome and ministry of outreach to others, faithful to Him whose coming we look forward to celebrating again soon.

Please be assured of my continuing love and prayers for the diocese as, together, we look forward to our ongoing journey of discipleship.

++ John

Leading Your Church Into Growth @ MissionMonmouth Discovery Day

"If you are not leading your church into growth, where are you leading it?"

Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Burnley



Inspiring" and "thought-provoking" were the words most used to describe our recent Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) Discovery Day.

Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) is a long established and very successful course for clergy and lay leaders from across different traditions, who are looking for help and encouragement in leading their church into growth. It is designed to put church growth, teaching and inspiration into the very blood stream of the local church. It is designed to stimulate, teach, equip and motivate God's people in Leading their Church into Growth.

Archdeacon Sue Pinnington, who organised the @ MissionMonmouth training event, said: "It's been a great pleasure to welcome Robin Gamble, one of the founders of LyCiG, to inspire us to think and pray about church growth here in Monmouth. It's wonderful that so many people with a passion for mission and church growth have gathered together today from all parts of the diocese. Today, is just the start of our engagement with church growth and the realisation that every church can be involved in large or small ways. We need to take seriously spiritually, missionally and numerically growth, if we are going to see the Kingdom flourishing in every community. We need to be embracing a love without limit.

"If you were unable to join us there will be plenty of opportunities to learn more about LyCiG Local and other ways to encourage growth and you can always invite me to come and speak at your MAC, PCC or mission team!"

The Discovery Day was led by The Reverend Canon Robin Gamble who explored the possibilities of this being the way your church and Ministry Area can look at growth.

He started by explaining the three fields of growth - Spiritually (lead in deepening growth); Missionally (reach out to community) and Numerically - and how churches tend to concentrate their energies on the first two and neglect the third!

But 'church' isn't a numbers game, right?

To grow the Kingdom of God, everyone needs to be counted, because everyone counts.

Numbers play a huge role in the bible - 12 disciples, 5000 people fed, 10 lepers healed, 1 lost sheep - so why is numerical so hard?

Delegates were asked three diagnostic questions about where they are now - in terms of decline vs growth and maintenance vs mission and where they would like to be in three years time.

So, Churches need to start thinking about a strategy for mission by establishing a culture for growth.

We need to change the "church in decline" narrative by finding opportunities to share the Good News - sharing the gospel is as basic as prayer and we should do it regularly.

This can be achieved through prayer, presence, proclamation and persuasion.

How much is your church praying for growth? What are your presence groups? Have you got two proclamation occasions? In what ways are you helping people to respond to the gospel and grow to commitment and discipleship?

Robin talked of developing a "culture of invitation". Churches should create opportunities throughout the year to actively invite new members - even using printed fliers or invitations. Suggested events included back to church Sunday, bring a friend Sunday, schools Sunday - but churches should be encouraging two invitation days a year.

So, you've established a culture for growth, developed a culture of invitation - where now? The LyCiG course recommends a 12 step journey (see below)

The 12 Steps

- 1 Establish a desire / culture of growth
- 2 Pray explicitly for growth as a church
- 3 Develop a leadership team
- 4 Create an 18 month / 2 year plan for growth
- 5 Get into the habit of inviting people
- 6 Ensure you are a welcoming church
- 7 Set aside proclamation / festival events every year
- 8 Run an enquirers' group each year
- 9 Develop an 'evangelism into discipleship' stepping stone journey
- 10 Establish a family culture with a commitment to work with children and young people
- 11 Improve the feel and accessibility of your worship
- 12 Find ongoing support and help

Reverend Sally Ingle-Gillis, took part in a previous LyCiG course and has run with it!

Sally explains: "To quote Bishop Philip North, 'If you're not leading your church into growth where are you leading it?' It was with this in mind that the seven small churches of the Wentwood Ministry Area began the Leading Your Church into Growth (Local) Course. We are half way through the course, having met for several evenings over homemade cakes, nibbles, coffee and wine, exploring what we are doing well, what we want to do well, and what we would like to do differently. We are learning to become better at praying, and we have certainly learnt the importance of a positive, hopeful attitude.

"Most exciting has been the commitment from parishioners, who have their hearts and hopes rooted in the future of their faith and their communities. We are watching each other grow as individuals and watching ourselves come together as a group of churches in ways that will be transformational and will allow us to be confident in our desire to be disciples of Christ, bringing good news to our friends and neighbours. We are too early in the plans to be able to speak of outcomes, but we are expectant and encouraged by the conversations we have had so far."

If you want to find out more about LyCiG Local, @ MissionMonmouth or for more information about future @MissionMonmouth opportunities and courses please contact Archdeacon Sue Pinnington on archdeacon.gwentvalleys@cinw.org.uk

What our delegates said about the training:

"Inspirational leader! Given me hope for the future"

"Challenging, uplifting day, which points the way we need to travel in faith."

"Best mission training for years - inspirational!"

"Robin was excellent - inspiring content, thought-provoking and well put together"

"Very encouraging day. As reps for our congregation, we need to share this with thanks and with the Lord's help"

"Covered a considerable amount of possibilities within our existing settings"

Inspire Groups

INSPIRE

To equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Eph 4:12

Inspire events have been taking place across the diocese, bringing together local groups of people involved in mission and ministry with children, young people or families.

The informal evenings encourage like-minded people to look at different resources, share ideas and help inspire one another.

Diocesan officers Rachel Nelmes and Vicki Brackpool, who run the events, explained: *"The idea for Inspire Groups came out of meeting a variety of volunteers in various places doing similar things. We thought about the impact they might have on each other if they were in the same space, sharing together their highlights and concerns. Our vision for these groups is for like minded people who care about sharing God's love with children, young people and families to be together, be inspired and be effective in their local context. This means people can get to a group within half an hour hopefully."*

"It is encouraging to discover the range of work that us as church are offering in our communities. As we share our stories we expand our vision and learn more about the mission of the church. God has many plans and purposes for us as church, through meeting together we are able to expand our knowledge and understanding and are encouraged by the bigger picture. So often our vision is limited to our own experience and we fail to celebrate what we do well. There are so many amazing people in our diocese that are connecting with their local communities in different ways. Listening to each journey of faith is exciting, how they got an idea and how things got started, the challenges they've overcome, the wonderful encounters they've witnessed where God has been at work, the difference their ministry has made in them, and the transformation and impact of their work upon others, is truly inspirational."

The content of the Inspire evenings varies depending on the requests of the group. The desire is for the groups to be influenced by those attending. Each time groups meet, it is important to know what is going well and indeed where further support is required. For some groups this may be about the best

resource for a specific activity or age range, it may be about future training events, for others the need is to consider opportunities for mission in a broader sense, and of course there will be additional things that are not mentioned here.

The key thing is supporting you in your mission with families and young people at a local level.

If you are interested in hearing more about your local Inspire Group please get in touch. Groups are currently hosted in the Valleys, Newport and Raglan/Usk at differing regularity depending on what the group has requested. Why not join with others doing similar things near you? Come for a chance to pray, share ideas, be encouraged, know the support of others and more!

Our aim is to listen to your requests and ideas about how these groups can work best for you.

Please contact us for more details or if you would like us to consider hosting an Inspire Group near you.

Contact Us

rachelnelmes@churcinwales.org.uk;
vickibrackpool@churcinwales.org.uk
01633 267490



If you'd like to help Bring the Bible to Life to the children in your local primary school using Open the Book resources let us know so we can help you get this wonderful adventure started.



Like-minded people sharing ideas, stories and laughs!

But don't just take our word for it!

Here's what others have said about the Inspire Evenings...

'It was such a lovely evening, just great to meet everyone and share our ideas - the time flew by!'

'Thanks so much again'

Jan Jones Risca

'What a wonderful evening, inspiring ideas, encouraging conversations... can't wait to try out some of the ideas'

Mari, Redbrook

'It's great because it gives you confidence to come and share'

Sue Russell, Raglan

When asked 'Why do you come?' people said...

'To have the support of others working with children and young people and to share ideas.'

'To refresh ideas about children's ministry'
Hilary Robeiro, Raglan

'To meet new people and to help with new ideas...I really enjoyed it.'
Becca Collier, Goetre

What others have said...

'It's so encouraging to meet other people and share ideas. Vicki always has some helpful resources and we have fun!'
Janet Bone, Llanishen

'We are trying new things and Inspire meetings give me both the ideas and support to try them out'
Gay Kennington, Devauden.



Have you thought about starting your own Messy Church? Visiting another Messy Church near you would be a good place to begin. I am sure they would be

delighted to share their experiences with you, don't hesitate to get in touch. Families really enjoy worshipping together and like to have fun!



Inspire a faith that lasts

Want to know more about how to help families nurture faith at home? Care for the Family have excellent resources to assist with this.

SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Growing connections with our church schools

Proverbs 3:5 advises

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

These wise words from the Old Testament remain hugely relevant for me, and my colleagues, who have been commissioned to work with children, young people, schools and families across our diocese. The first part of this verse reminds us to root all that we do in God. The second part of the verse is a caution that trying to do it all on our own would be foolish - and we try not to be foolish too often, if we can help it!

Therefore, as part of a coherent and intentional strategy, those of us working with our schools, children, young people and families across the diocese are actively seeking to make meaningful connections, to hear about and affirm what is already going on, to listen to what is needed and to do what we can to offer support in a relevant and impactful way.

See pages 8 & 9 in this issue of Grapevine to hear from my colleagues Rachel Nemes and Vicki Brackpool on their work, in initiating Inspire Networks, to make and build connections across our ministry areas and parishes.

In this section, however, I will outline some of the initiatives we are rolling out in order to make and build connections across our diocesan church schools. Read on to find out more!



The Chair of Governors, **Ann Morgan**, and Head Teacher, **Jane Howells**, of Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales Primary School in discussion during a recent Coffee Connect with Dr Annette Daly

Coffee Connect

The Coffee Connects are a great chance to get a sense of what the real concerns and challenges are for our church schools so that I can liaise and advocate appropriately where I can; they are also good for promoting forthcoming diocesan events or training that would be supportive of our schools' work.

- ✓ **WHO** Meetings with the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and Diocesan Director of Education
- ✓ **BONUS** Good coffee (or tea) and delicious pastries provided!
- ✓ **PLAN** To pause for prayer, celebrate achievements, consider areas of concern and agree actions
- ✓ **FREQUENCY** Invitations out to schools twice a year – November and April
- ✓ **ALSO** Mobile Coffee Connect is also on offer (where the Diocesan Director goes to the school with the pastries and filter coffee bags) and has been trialled successfully!
- ✓ **BENEFITS** Ringfencing time and space for productive and impactful discussions and ensuring key stakeholders are all perceiving the landscape from a similar viewpoint.



Some of the key ingredients for our Coffee Connect meetings!



Pupils from Henllys Church in Wales School leading a guided tour with Dr Annette Daly as part of their recent Scheduled School Visit

Scheduled School Visits

While there is regular contact with our diocesan church schools around support for challenging issues or for recruitment processes, this doesn't always afford the opportunity to visit the schools and get a sense of some of the great practice that is ongoing within them. Therefore, Scheduled School Visits are an intentional aim to do just this.

- ✓ **WHO** Diocesan Director of Education planned visit to the school
- ✓ **PLAN** To join the school community for collective worship, meet with the Head Teacher and staff, see around the school and chat with the children
- ✓ **FREQUENCY** Five schools invited each term to liaise with the Diocesan Director of Education for this purpose.
- ✓ **BENEFITS** These visits enable a visible presence so that school communities know how I can listen to and support them; the visits also enable relationships to be established and sustained, so that if senior leaders or staff members have a concern or a worry, they won't feel reticent about being able to contact their Diocesan Director of Education for advice. It is also great to visit our schools and keep grounded in the reality of all that they are!



Recent Annual Network Supper Meeting for Chairs/Vice Chairs of all our diocesan church schools

Diocesan Network Meetings

Diocesan Network Meetings have been established for different groups within our church school communities and parameters of meeting frequency and focus continues to be reviewed and refreshed in collaboration with our church school Head Teachers. This enables links between Head Teachers, senior leaders, Chairs/Vice Chairs of Governors, Religious Education co-ordinators to establish reciprocal links with us as a Diocese. It also, maybe more importantly, enables these groups to establish relationships with each other.

In this respect, we are all enabled to build meaningful relationships and ensure that our efforts, in moving forward, continue to be real, relevant and impactful. These network meetings also provide a forum for establishing the needs of the different groups so that training workshops and programmes can be set up to support key priorities. Because the landscape of change in education and in the diocese continues to evolve and change (sometimes at quite an alarming pace!), the opportunity for us to keep checking in with each other to ensure relevance is paramount.

We have almost 4000 children in our church schools – and many, many more in the community schools across our diocese. We have the opportunity to do all we can to help them become the people God calls them to be... and in so doing also blossom into becoming the people God calls us to be. Thank you sincerely to all who are already working with me in this common purpose.

Let us trust in the Lord with all our hearts and make sure not to lean on our own understanding too much or we will lose sight of what it is that we are trying to do.

If anyone would like to know more about any of the initiatives mentioned within this article, please do contact me and I'd be delighted to make a link with you: annettedaly@cinw.org.uk or phone **01633 267490**.

Dr Annette Daly
Diocesan Director of Education

We will remember them...

Remembrance Services were held across the diocese to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in two world wars and more recent conflicts – and pray for peace.

It was a real community affair in Tredegar, as the town remembered its fallen soldiers in a poppy display - made entirely out of recycled plastic.

Parishioners at St George's Church had planned to make about 500 poppies to represent soldiers from the town who died in the two world wars.

But when Reverend Elizabeth Jones asked the local schools if they wanted to be involved the project took on a life of its own!

Everyone thought it was a great idea and the garden was actually filled with thousands of plastic poppies.

Reverend Elizabeth Jones said the response had been "overwhelming".

"The children can see for themselves how ugly, empty, plastic bottles can be changed into something quite beautiful," she said.

Primary and secondary school pupils helped collect used plastic bottles, clean them and craft them into the poppies.

Magor and Llanmartin brownies, as part of the #passionplastic Girlguiding national campaign about single use plastic, also recycled plastic bottles into poppies for their tribute to those fallen in conflict. Their work was displayed at St Mary's Church, Magor, along with other creations by Club Rock youngsters.

Here are a few images from Remembrance services across the diocese...

Tredegar looked fantastic thanks to its plastic poppies



Parishioners came together to remember the fallen



Remembrance service at Rogerstone made even more special with its new war memorial which was put in place in August and will be dedicated spring next year 2020.

Poignant image at St Mary's Church, Malpas – we shall remember them....



Displays at St Mary's Church, Magor



People and places



Celebrating harvest in style at **St Mary's, Marshfield!**

Everyone had great fun blessing the tractor and a few fleecy friends came along from Court Farm to support the day too!



The first Pet Service was held at **St Mary's Priory, Chepstow** and was certainly given the 'paws-up' from the canine companions who went along! A great day was had by all, ending with a blessing for all the animals from Reverend Philip Averay.



A new Christmas carol was performed for the first time at **St. Teilio's Church, Llantilio Pertholey, Mardy, Abergavenny.**

The carol, *Joseph's Child*, is the result of a collaboration between two talented residents of Abergavenny.

The words are from the poem of the same name by Michael Tod, poet and published author. This has been set to music composed and arranged by Robert Wade, organist and choir master for St. Teilo's.



The **Mayflower Project** in our link diocese of the Highveld in South Africa is nearly complete – and it's looking fantastic!

The building project has been supported by our diocese for many years and it's great to see it taking shape!

The project will provide more classrooms for the nursery school which previously looked after and fed more than 100 children in cramped conditions in one of the poorest areas of the Highveld.



An exciting initiative for the Caerleon Ministry Area was introduced during the summer school holidays in the form of pop up cinema held at **All Saints Church, Llanfrechfa.**

More than 40 people went along to watch *Mary Poppins Returns* as part of the new 'Flicks in the Sticks' venture.

Entrance was free, but there was plenty of chance to buy popcorn, hotdogs and drinks!

There are plans to hold more pop up cinemas in the future so watch this space!



St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny hosted one of 20 remembrance services which will take place across the UK, as part of a global movement to remember the unacceptable number of lives lost and broken on our roads.

Those bereaved by road crashes were joined by politicians and representatives from the emergency services.

The services are also an opportunity to thank first responders, the police and medical professionals who deal daily with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury.

Keeping the real meaning of Christmas alive!

Winning diocesan Christmas card designs

Every Christmas, we invite one of our diocesan church schools to take part in the Diocesan Christmas eCard Competition. The aim of this competition is to help remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas, when there is so much distraction from it all around us. This year Magor Church in Wales Primary School were asked to help us, and we were delighted to receive their fantastic artistic interpretations of the Christmas story.

The winner was **Isabella Matthewson, Year 5, age 9**, with her gorgeous bold use of colour clearly depicting the long hard journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem; we loved the detail of the donkey and the rolled up blanket and the obvious exhaustion of them all. **Eliza Daniel, Year 1, age 5**, was awarded second prize for her beautiful detailed interpretation of the shepherds on the hills with their sheep. **Lauren Corfield, Year 3, age 7**, was awarded third prize for her lovely depiction of the nativity scene with a very happy baby Jesus being visited by three wise men under the oversight of Mary, Joseph and an angel.



Isabella Matthewson, Year 5, age 9



Eliza Daniel, Year 1, age 5



Lauren Corfield, Year 3, age 7



Huge thanks to the **Meaningful Chocolate Company** who continue to support our competitions and supply delicious prizes for our winners! See their website for how to get your own delicious and meaningful Christmas treats: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/>

Lent Appeal

Thanks to your generosity, charities tackling homelessness across our diocese have been given a financial boost.

This year's Lent Appeal was launched in March and raised £7,000 which has been divided among three organisations – Amazing Grace Spaces, Eden Gate and Monmouth Night Shelter - which support and assist the homeless, especially through night shelters.

Caroline Johnson, Director of Amazing Grace Spaces, which received £3,000, said: "We feel extremely blessed to be chosen to receive this generous donation and would like to thank everyone who contributed and the Diocese of Monmouth for their support."

"We are currently renovating a house in Newport that will be opening soon as Grace House, a supported women's house for women coming out of prison or rehab. The women will undergo a program of growth and recovery so they can move on into independent living. We will be able to put the money toward this current project."

Marc Hepton, Operations Manager with Eden Gate which also received £3,000, said: "Eden Gate runs

various services aimed at tackling homelessness or engaging with those who are trapped in addiction. We are extremely grateful for the funding which will be used to help people experiencing homelessness or life controlling problems in Newport."

For the first time last Winter, churches in Monmouth operated a Night Shelter on three nights a week for up to six people. They hope to be able to expand the project in future years and were given £1,000.

Reverend Catherine Haynes, said: "Monmouth Churches came together a few years ago to help address the increased need to help rough sleepers and those facing homelessness in Monmouth, especially during the winter months. We looked at ways in which we could use our Church buildings to put what our faith teaches us into practice and provide shelter and a welcome for those who need it most."



On the move

Going

Revd Canon Tim Clement – has retired as Ministry Area Leader for Raglan

Revd Celia Jones – has retired as Team Vicar Magor

Revd Rufus Noy – moving to Leominster as Team Vicar

Coming

Revd Dean Roberts – appointed as Incumbent of the Bewdas, Machen, Michaelston-y-Fedw and Rudry Ministry Area.

Revd Kevin Hasler – appointed as Incumbent of the Raglan Ministry Area

Best wishes and blessings on those moving on in ministry, thank you for your ministry in the Diocese of Monmouth.

Please continue to remember in prayer all who are taking on new roles or retiring from formal ministry.

Centenary Fund goes digital!

To celebrate its Centenary in 2020, the Church in Wales is raising funds for two important projects – both home and away.

And it's never been so easy to donate!!

The Centenary Fund will support Christian Aid – and its work in South Sudan and Housing Justice Cymru – which tackles homelessness in Wales.

The aim is to raise £10k per year for each project, over a five-year term. This will enable solid and consistent work on each project: peace-building in the war-torn country of South Sudan; and developing church-run Nigh Shelters and raising awareness of how churches can help tackle homelessness and related problems here in Wales.

For the first time, the Church in Wales will be using a digital fundraising site which means people can donate a fixed £5 amount via a text from their phone as well as giving through the usual channels.

Text CENTENARY to 70660 to donate £5.



Welsh language services in Monmouth Diocese

A Welsh service is held every two months, on the second Saturday of the month, at **St Thomas' Church, Overmonnow, Monmouth.**

The dates for the **next 6 services** are:

11th January 2020

14th March 2020

9th May 2020

11th July 2020

12th September 2020

14th November 2020

All services are at 9.30 a.m.

All welcome

Gwasanaethau Cymraeg yn Esgobaeth Mynwy

Cynhelir gwasanaeth Cymraeg bob deufis, ar ail ddydd Sadwrn y mis, yn **Eglwys Sant Thomas, Overmonnow, Trefynwy.**

Dyddiadau y **6 gwasanaeth nesaf** fydd:

11fed Ionawr 2020

14eg Mawrth 2020

9fed Mai 2020

11fed Gorffennaf 2020

12fed Medi 2020

14eg Tachwedd 2020

Mae'r gwasanaethau i gyd am 9.30 y bore

Croeso cynnes i bawb

Back Chat

With Friends of Friendless Churches

In early October, the Friends of Friendless Churches team set off for Monmouthshire. The occasion was our Trustees' Tour, Annual General Meeting, Evensong and members' tea.

On Friday 11th, we squelched our way across the county to visit all of the five churches we look after there, including St Mary's, Llanfair Kilgeddin and St Jerome's, Llangwm Uchaf.

On the Saturday, we descended on St Cadoc's, Llangattock Vibon Avel. St Cadoc's will be our next vesting. The medieval church was lavishly restored in 1866 by Messrs Cox & Son. Less than ten years later, in 1875, with T.H. Wyatt as the architect, the north aisle was added, the chancel extended, a porch and organ chamber added, and the interior remodelled.

Buried in the churchyard is the Hon. Charles Stewart Rolls, pioneer aviator, who died 1910 in a flying accident, the first British aircraft fatality. It was C. S. Rolls that co-founded the Rolls-Royce firm.

This fine Victorian church was packed to capacity for Evensong, where the choir was masterfully led by Andrew Greenwood, Chorus Master at the Welsh National Opera.

After the formal business of our AGM, we made the short journey to The Hendre, once the home of the Rolls family. The family motto *Celeritas et Veritas* (Promptness and Truth) can still be seen over the entrance porch.

The Hendre is a sprawling red-brick Victorian mansion. Much as Pevsner described 19th-century architecture, this house is a 'fancy dress ball' of historical periods. With Wyatt, Pope and Aston Webb all adding and extending throughout the century.

Here, we enjoyed some excellent cake and a lecture on the Rolls family by Roger James.

We were so thrilled by the welcome we received in Monmouthshire and that we could share this beautiful county and its churches with more than 120 members.

**Friends of Friendless Churches at St Cadoc's,
Llangattock Vibon Avel**

Rachel Morley, Director

